

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** Self Determined Futures L.L.C.  
**Project Name:** Our Hands Speak  
**Application ID:** App-22-557  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant  
**Awarded Amount:** \$200,000

**Project Summary:** Our project will target the Deaf Black and Hispanic populations with age ranged from 16-22+. Our catchment areas our project will serve will be the following regional centers: IRC and SDRC. We will provide our project in 4 counties: San Diego County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Imperial County. Our project design is to focus on the Black and Hispanic Deaf communities and provide them with knowledge and information on regional center services as well as additional community resources. Our project will accomplish increasing the utilization of regional center services for current regional center clients, increasing intake for services of potential deaf regional center clients, and exposing deaf regional center clients to additional community resources they can utilize to improve their quality of life or become more independent. The community served will benefit by being able to access regional center services and receive the equity in services they deserve.

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Ebony Montgomery    enmontgomery@live.com    3104311719  
**Project Director/Manager:** Ebony Montgomery    enmontgomery@live.com    3104311719  
**Project Manager/Coordinator:** Ebony Montgomery    enmontgomery@live.com    3104311719  
**Compliance/Fiscal Officer:** Ebony Montgomery    enmontgomery@live.com    3104311719

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**Section Name:** Applicant Eligibility

**Sub Section Name:** Applicant Information

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Title

What is the Project Title?

**Applicant Response:**

Our Hands Speak

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**2. Applicant Question:** Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

**Applicant Response:**

\$200,000

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**3. Applicant Question:** Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

**Applicant Response:**

Community Based Organization, non-501(c)(3) EIN

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**4. Applicant Question:** Description of Organization/Group

Provide a brief description of the organization or group. Explain what experience your organization has managing a project similar to the proposal and state the outcomes of that project. You may upload your brochure or add a website link.

**Applicant Response:**

Self Determined Futures is an organization that supports all adults with developmental disabilities achieve independence. We currently specialize in assisting individuals that are Deaf or Hard of hearing in the Self Determination Program (SDP) to be in control of their services, preferences, and needs. We have experience dealing with regional center clients on a daily basis and we understand the disparities amongst ethnicity, race, and language. We assist persons that are deaf or hard of hearing on a daily basis and see the struggles and barriers that they face as it relates to them receiving services and we provide advocacy support to ensure they do not go without due to their disability. Our presence in the deaf community is strong because at Self Determined Futures each staff member has personal connection with the deaf/hard of hearing community which ignites our passion for the work we do.

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**5. Applicant Question:** Applicant in Good Standing

Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration? Please upload confirmation letter(s) or proof of good standing.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

**Attachment:**

[State Of California Franchise Tax Board Good Standing 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**6. Applicant Question:** Subcontractors in Good Standing

Are the applicant's subcontractors in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

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**Section Name:** Grant Reapplication Information

**Sub Section Name:** Grant Reapplications Only

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**1. Applicant Question:** Previous Award(s)

Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2020-21 or 2021-22? If yes, go to question 2 to

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complete each column. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.

**Applicant Response:**

No

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**2. Applicant Question:** Previous Grant Award(s)

Since fiscal year 2020, complete a row for each DDS Service Access and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.

**Applicant Response:**

Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount
N/A	N/A	N/A	

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**3. Applicant Question:** Previous Grant Outcomes

Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2020-21 and/or 2021-22.

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**4. Applicant Question:** Project Transition

If awarded, how will your current project(s) transition into the 2022-23 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand or continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**Section Name:** General Application

**Sub Section Name:** Proposal Summary

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Type

Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:

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**Applicant Response:**

Education and Training

**Applicant Comment:**

Our project will target the Deaf Black and Hispanic populations with age ranged from 16-22+. Our catchment areas our project will serve will be the following regional centers: IRC and SDRC. We will provide our project in 4 counties: San Diego County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Imperial County. Our project design is to focus on the Black and Hispanic Deaf communities and provide them with knowledge and information on regional center services as well as additional community resources. Our project will accomplish increasing the utilization of regional center services for current regional center clients, increasing intake for services of potential deaf regional center clients, and exposing deaf regional center clients to additional community resources they can utilize to improve their life or become more independent. The community served will benefit by being able to access regional center receive the equity in services they deserve quality of services and receive the equity in services they deserve.

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**2. Applicant Question:** Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

**Applicant Response:**

12 months

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**3. Applicant Question:** Regional Centers

Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, select the All Regional Centers/Statewide option.

**Applicant Response:**

- Inland Regional Center
  - San Diego Regional Center
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**4. Applicant Question:** Counties Served

List the county or counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, the select All Counties / Statewide option.

**Applicant Response:**

- San Bernardino County
  - Riverside County
  - San Diego County
  - Imperial County
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**5. Applicant Question:** Community Based Organizations

Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organizations? If so, provide the name of the organization and

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how you will be working together.

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**6. Applicant Question:** Multiple Organizations

Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontractor? If "yes", please upload a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.

**Applicant Response:**

No

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**7. Applicant Question:** Strategies and Sustainability

How will your project continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?

**Applicant Response:**

Our project will continue after the grant funding has concluded by seeking tenderization with IRC and SDRC, securing additional grant funding, partnering with other CBO's to collaborate, and fundraising. We understand that the need for our project will be necessary after funding has concluded and ensuring that we provide consistent support to the deaf population is our main priority. Throughout the extent of the grant we will begin to secure funding to ensure that our participants do not have a lapse in activities provided through the grant. We understand that the Black and Hispanic Deaf communities have suffered from lack of access to services/resources and issues with service equity. Self Determined Futures wants to be the catalyst for change to increase access to services/resources and improving service equity by remaining a dependable resource in the community they can lean on for support.

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**Sub Section Name:** Target Population

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**1. Applicant Question:** Ethnicity Groups Served

Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. For "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" or "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.

**Applicant Response:**

- African American
  - Hispanic
- 

**2. Applicant Question:** Ethnicity Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served

For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals your project intends to serve and the related language(s).

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**Applicant Response:**

Ethnicity Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)
African American	50	ASL, English
Hispanic	50	ASL, Spanish

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**3. Applicant Question:** Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

**Applicant Response:**

- 22 and older

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**Section Name:** Project Application

**Sub Section Name:** Project Application

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Summary and Organizational Experience

Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served. In your answer, include what experience your organization has working with the target population and how your organization will work with the local RC(s).

### **Applicant Response:**

Our project will target the Deaf Black and Hispanic populations with age ranged from 22+. The catchment areas our project will serve will be the following regional centers: IRC and SDRC. We will provide our project in 4 counties: San Diego County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Imperial County. Our project design is to focus on the Black and Hispanic Deaf communities and provide them with knowledge and information on regional center services as well as additional community resources. Our project will accomplish increasing the utilization of regional center services for current regional center clients, increasing intake for services of potential deaf regional center clients, and exposing deaf regional center clients to additional community resources they can utilize to improve their quality of life or become more independent. The community served will benefit by being able to access regional center services and receive the equity in services they deserve. Self Determined Futures currently works with this target population through SDP to help them navigate the services they prefer and need.

Self Determined Futures has over 10+ years working with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing communities in San Diego County, Riverside County, and surrounding areas. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing community has been welcoming of us because we advocate and support them by ensuring their voices are heard and they are not overlooked due to their disability. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing community trust us with assisting them with their matters because we make their issue our top priority.

Each staff at Self Determined Futures LLC has a personal connection to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community. The CEO of Self Determined Futures almost lost her hearing as a child and was being taught sign language incase she did so as a result when she developed SDF she makes it her mission to ensure that deaf/hard of hearing individuals receive the services they need and want. The CEO of SDF has also made it her duty to ensure that each staff member hired has a connection with the Deaf/Hard of hearing community to ensure there a personal connection to provide exceptional service with a person centered delivery.

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### **2. Applicant Question:** Data and Community Input

Explain why you have selected your priority population(s) using RC POS data and other data as supporting evidence of the disparity or inequity. Include how your organization used input from the community, target population, and RC to design the proposal.

### **Applicant Response:**

Deaf Black and Hispanic populations ages 22+ are underserved at IRC by 24.3%. The expenditures spent on POS for Deaf in the fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$60,922, however the amount authorized was \$101,923. The data reflects that services for the deaf are being under utilized by 40.2%. This demonstrates there must be a transparent issues with access to services. In comparison to other languages POS expenditures the deaf experiencing an apparent disparity in service equity as well.

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### **3. Applicant Question:** Uniqueness

How is the proposed project unique from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and goals) in the proposed RC catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?

### **Applicant Response:**

Self Determined Futures Proposed project is unique because it focuses on the Deaf marginalized communities of color. Deaf Black and Hispanic individuals face greater hardships and discrimination in access to services and service equity compared to their Caucasian peers. Our project will ensure we bring access to services for the Black & Hispanic deaf population with ages ranging from 22+, by providing them with the knowledge of services available, connecting them to additional community resources, and providing a space for participants to engage and share information. SDF provides a cultural and linguistic approach that identifies with Black & Hispanic Deaf/Hard of hearing community but each of our staff not only reflect the population we serve but they have a personal connection to the Deaf/hard of hearing community. There is no project that specifically focuses on our target population which is why the disparity exist.

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### **4. Applicant Question:** Improve Equity and Service Access

How will your project measurably improve equity, access, and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?

### **Applicant Response:**

Self Determined Futures project will improve equity, access, and reduce barriers to services for deaf individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing information, direct linkage.warm handoffs to regional center resources, and connecting them to additional community resources to ensure they have all the services necessary to be successfully independent. We will bring our project directly to the deaf communities of color to meet them where they are at and we will also provide means or resources to get to Regional Center to access services.

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### **5. Applicant Question:** Support of RC Plan

Does the project support the RC plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce your identified disparities? How will your project collaborate with other organizations to promote community inclusion?

### **Applicant Response:**

Our project supports the RC plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in my proposed catchment area by focusing and providing services to the target population Deaf Black & Hispanic population ages 22+. This project will support the Regional Centers performance plan to help the meet their measures. This project will also help the Regional Centers decrease their disparities amongst the deaf minority population. Our project collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by connecting the resources they have directly to our target population and fostering those connections.

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### **6. Applicant Question:** Project Activities and Measures

**Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.**

The schedule of activities clearly and specifically demonstrates the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures. Do the proposed measures appropriately track the project objective and activities, provide insight into the effectiveness of project, and demonstrate impact on the target population?

### **Applicant Response:**

The schedule of activities will demonstrate the steps the project will take to achieve the objective and measures. The following activities are :attending socials, empowerment sessions, resource fairs, focus groups, trainings, and hosting informational sessions. These activities will meet measure 1-6. The objective will be met by each activity because the activities will link and connect clients of regional center services as well as potential clients to regional center services to increase their access to services and expand equity of services.

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## 7. Applicant Question: Budget Template and Narrative

**Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above.**

The project budget is consistent with the stated project objective and activities, and clearly and concisely explains how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design and outcomes. The project budget costs are clearly associated with the activities and does not include non-allowable costs or costs funded by other sources.

- Budget Template example is located at [Attachment C](#).
- Budget Details and Restrictions are available [here](#).

### Applicant Response:

Proposed measures are appropriate to track the project's objective and activities. Our proposed measures provide insight into the effectiveness of the overall design of the project and will demonstrate how the impact on the community will be evaluated based upon us successfully achieving our measures and surpassing what we estimated. Our measures will reflect the success of our activities as we accomplish achieving the measures we set but as our project continues and surpasses the numbers we projected it will reflect heavily in our target population communities. The success of our project will reflect positively on Regional Center because they will be able to show the decrease in disparity amongst deaf Black & Hispanic populations ages 22+ and they will also be able to use the data for their performance contract.

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**Section Name:** Proposal Certification

**Sub Section Name:** Certification

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### 1. Applicant Question: Confirm Proposal Discussion with RC(s)

CBOs are required to discuss their proposal with each RC(s) the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with each RC you are intending to serve?

### Applicant Response:

Yes

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### 2. Applicant Question: RC Contact

CBOs are required to submit their application concurrently to the Department and to each RC(s) catchment the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, state the name(s) of the contact person(s) at each RC you have emailed your proposal application. The RC contact list is available here at [Attachment F](#).

**Applicant Response:**

Lavinia Johnson

[Ljohnson@inlandrc.org](mailto:Ljohnson@inlandrc.org)

Maria Rodriguez

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Mark Klaus

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Brenda Bello Vazquez

[Brenda.BelloVazquez@sdrc.org](mailto:Brenda.BelloVazquez@sdrc.org)

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**3. Applicant Question:** Code of Conduct

**Grantee Code of Conduct**

The Department is committed to supporting services and programs with integrity that foster collaboration and professionalism. Grantees are expected to conduct project activities in a professional and respectful manner that include:

- **Valuing Diversity and Inclusion.** Grantees should embrace diversity that includes but is not limited to: ability, race, language, national origin, citizenship, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and religion.
- **Conducting Activities with Personal and Professional Integrity.** All activities with individuals, families, community organizations, regional centers, and state, local and federal agencies should be conducted with professionalism, dignity, respect, and fairness. Grantees should be open to listening to different points of view and fostering productive communication.
- **Providing a Positive Work Environment:** All projects should foster a positive and respectful work environment with their colleagues and other grantees.

**Applicant Response:**

- I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Code of Conduct.
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**4. Applicant Question:** Applicant Certification

By submitting this application, the Applicant is certifying the truth and accuracy of the proposal. The applicant also certifies that if you have subcontracting organizations, each participating organization has reviewed your project and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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